

and after many futile efforts to release his finger from inside the reptile's mouth, we had, as a last resource, to cut the jaws open with scissors. It was a terrible bite! In spite of such experiences, however, the snake-charmers do not seem to think much of risking their heads and hands in a monitor's burrow. On enquiring, I learnt that the creature has the habit of always sitting in the burrow with its tail nearer, and its head away from, the opening. Once the tail is caught, it cannot turn its clumsy length round to bite at the offender, and the catcher is safe.

BENI CHARAN MAHENDRA,
Lecturer in Zoology.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,
AGRA,
October 26, 1929.

XXIII.—OCCURRENCE OF THE RUSSELL'S VIPER IN THE BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY

In Colonel Wall's book on Poisonous Indian Snakes he states that the Russel's Viper is not found in the Brahmaputra valley. I personally have seen two undoubted specimens in this district which lies close to the Bhutan foothills. I have a specimen at present in my possession which corresponds accurately with the description, detailed and general, given in Colonel Wall's book. If you wish, I will send the specimen to you for confirmation; but as it is my only specimen of this snake, will you please undertake to return it?

PANEERY,
PANERIHAT P.O.,
August 17, 1929.

J. LOUDON.

[The snake forwarded to us by Mr. Loudon is a Russell's (*V. russellii*).—EDS.]

XXIV.—THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BANDED KRAIT (*BUNGARUS FASCIATUS*)

On October 24th I was motoring in the Sal forest some five or six miles from Gorakhpur, and was making a sharp hair-pin turn from one of the narrow forest cuttings to another. The time was about 6.45 and it was pitch dark.

A large snake, which was coiled up on the path, unwound when my headlights struck it, and made off into the jungle. I tried to run over it, but am not sure if I was successful, as my wife would not hear of my going back to make investigations. The snake was so brilliantly banded, and these bands showed up so well under my headlights, that it seemed a definitely characteristic one. The same evening in the Club the matter was discussed and the consensus of opinion was that it was a Banded Krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*).